

December 28, 1942

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in behalf of Mr. Joshua Lederberg, who is applying for enlistment in the V-1 Class, U.S.N.R. Mr. Lederberg was a student of mine at Columbia University just before I left there to accept a position here at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory.

I can start off by saying that this young man is the most brilliant student I have encountered in my nineteen years of association with various universities. He not only has an amazing memory, but also has the rare gift of being able to think through the most difficult problems. He seems well versed in almost any branch of learning, especially science. His particular interest is biology, and for that reason he should be made use of in the medical training program. And what is more, he should be used as an instructor and not be forced to waste his time as a student.

I earnestly hope that Mr. Lederberg's case will be given very thoughtful consideration so that a man of such rare ability will be most effectively utilized for the war effort and yet be with us when the war is won.

Respectfully,

Frank H. Stodola, Chemist  
Fermentation Division